

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

**Listing of the Claims**

1. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 6352.
2. (Original) A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1 operably linked to a transcription regulatory element.
3. (Original) A cell comprising a recombinant expression vector of claim 2.
4. (Original) A method for producing an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide comprising culturing a cell of claim 3 under conditions that permit expression of the polypeptide.
5. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide or a fragment thereof, wherein said nucleic acid is SEQ ID NO: ~~4450~~ 2580.
6. (Original) A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 5 operably linked to a transcription regulatory element.
7. (Original) A cell comprising a recombinant expression vector of claim 6.
8. (Original) A method for producing an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide comprising culturing a cell of claim 7 under conditions that permit expression of the polypeptide.
9. (Currently Amended) A probe comprising a nucleotide sequence consisting of at least eight contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: ~~4450~~ 2580.
10. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide

sequence of at least eight nucleotides in length, wherein the sequence is hybridizable to a nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: ~~1450~~ 2580.

11. (Previously Presented) An immunogenic composition for prevention or treatment of an *S. epidermidis* infection comprising an effective amount of a nucleic acid of claim 5 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

12. (Previously Presented) The immunogenic composition of claim 11, further comprising an adjuvant.

13. (Previously Presented) The immunogenic of claim 11, further comprising one or more additional active ingredients.

Claims 14-16. Cancelled

17. (Previously Presented) A recombinant or substantially pure preparation of an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide or a fragment thereof, wherein said polypeptide is SEQ ID NO: 6352.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The immunogenic composition for prevention or treatment of an *S. epidermidis* infection comprising an effective amount of an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide of claim 17 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

19. (Previously Presented) The immunogenic composition of claim 18, further comprising an adjuvant.

20. (Previously Presented) The immunogenic composition of claim 18, further comprising one or more additional active ingredients.

Claims 21-31. Cancelled.

32. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence, wherein the nucleotide sequence is hybridizable under high stringency conditions to SEQ ID NO: ~~1450~~ 2580 or its complements.

33. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid consisting of SEQ ID NO:  
~~1450~~ 2580.

34. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid consisting of a nucleic  
acid encoding SEQ ID NO: 6352.